MHA@GW Course Catalogue

The MHA@GW curriculum consists of eight 10-week learning modules, two interactive immersion experiences and an organizational research project.

Each course focuses on different core skill sets required for optimal delivery of health care. In total, the MHA degree requires 45 credits to complete.

MHA@GW Coursework

TERM 1: HSML 6264 HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY 5 credits

This course provides a detailed examination of the core principles of management and strategy that are required by persons holding leadership roles in healthcare delivery organizations.

TERM 2: HSML 6265 MEDICAL INFORMATICS AND DECISIONMANAGEMENT 5 credits

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce the fundamental principles and concepts of healthcare informatics and decision management, with a primary focus on clinical applications and their ability to operate within the framework of improving quality, productivity, and satisfaction. The course will provide a theoretical framework for understanding how to conceptualize a product effectiveness, return on investments, patient privacy, error reduction and define data and information requirements across many different health care settings.

TERM 3: HSML 6266 HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 5 credits

This course provides an understanding of the financial operations of healthcare organizations including financial reporting, cost management, sources of revenue and budgeting in healthcare organizations. It will focus on the theory and application of healthcare finance as it applies to health care organizations. The course includes specific emphasis on CFO responsibilities, revenue cycle, coding, reimbursement mechanisms, managed care contracting, personnel expenses, supply chain and materials management.

TERM 4: HSML 6268 ECONOMICS & QUANTITATIVE METHODS 5 credits

This multidisciplinary course is designed around two important and closely related components. The first component focuses on key health economic concepts, applications and tools that are highly relevant to healthcare managers seeking to better understand, respond to and influence the constantly evolving health care marketplace. The second component of this course focuses on quantitative methods and is designed to build students' understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics principles and their application in healthcare management.

TERM 5: HSML6267 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 4 credits

This course focuses on the engagement of a healthcare organization with the community. It builds on the leadership, IT and finance modules to examine how an organization affects and is affected by its community. The complex relationships of community health, public health and population health are analyzed. Learners build their capabilities in applying analytical frameworks and performing concrete tasks to add to their e-portfolio. Along with this course, students will complete PubH 6080 Pathways to Public Health.

Along with this module, students will simultaneously complete HSML 6282 Organizational Research Project 1 (1 credit).

TERM 6: HSML 6269 QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT 5 credits

Effective health care leaders understand that quality improvement tools and methods must be at the heart of every health care organization. Whether it is the quality of clinical care and patient safety, driving out waste and excessive cost or striving to deliver the most cost-effective care possible, quality improvement must be part of the skill set of every health care leader. From the principles of W. Edwards Deming's statistical process control to the six sigma and Toyota-style production models, quality improvement is and will continue to be the yardstick by which outstanding health care organizations are measured.

TERM 7:HSML 6280 HEALTHCARE LAW AND POLICY 4 credits

Healthcare is one of the most highly regulated industries in the nation, with a plethora of federal and state laws combined with requirements from multiple accrediting and licensing agencies. Health care managers and leaders need a clear understanding of the legal and regulatory environment in which they operate.

Along with this module, students will simultaneously complete HSML 6283 Organizational Research Project 2 (1 credit).

TERM 8: HSML 6281 SYSTEMS THINKING AND LEARNING 5 credits

The first seven program courses intentionally create dotted-line connections between concepts in health care leadership. Systems Thinking and Learning is the student's chance to darken those lines. In this course, we ask ourselves as a learning community; how do we drive organizational excellence by synthesizing our new knowledge? How do we make health care better?

Students are required to conduct an applied research project in their organizations as their culminating experience.

Immersion Experiences

MHA@GW students participate in two immersion experiences to further develop expertise as a health services professional.

TERM 1: HSML 6255 LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS IMMERSION 2credits

Development of leaders in high-performing health care organizations requires a combination of theory and practice. Students uncover their leadership style and practice the skills of highly effective leadership responsibilities. In addition, students examine ethical principles and learn how leaders use these practices.

TERM 2-7*: HSML 6258 HEALTH SYSTEMS ANALYSIS IMMERSION
3 credits

This immersion asks MHA@GW students to spend a concentrated period of time studying firsthand either an outstanding health system in the United States or a national health system outside our borders. The objective of the analysis is to critically examine and assess the structure, function and operations of a domestic or international health system. This inside perspective enables students to explore some of the most prestigious health organizations in the world. Students must select either the domestic or international option.

*HSML 6258 Health Systems Analysis must be taken after HSML 6255 Leadership & Ethics and before HSML 6281 Systems Thinking & Learning

Organizational Research Project

In parallel with terms six and seven, students complete a two-course organizational research project in which they choose to either evaluate an organization, develop a business plan or complete a literature review that will allow them to solve a specific operational issue.

TERM 5: HSML 6282 ORGANIZATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT 1 1 credit

This project is the first part of a two-course sequence that enables students to create a prospectus and design an initial approach that addresses a current administrative or clinical question in a health care organization. Students perform an internal and external environmental scan and consult with organizational leaders in the selection of a research project.

Students may choose from one of the following project types:

- Organizational research/evaluation: Students perform an applied research project in their organization or engage in the evaluation of a current clinical or administrative effort.
- Business plan: Students develop a comprehensive business plan for a new strategic service unit or expansion of an existing strategic service unit.
- Literature review: Students are tasked to solve an operational issue at their organization and complete a comprehensive literature review in order to uncover best practices.

TERM 7: HSML 6283 ORGANIZATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT 2 1 credit

This project is the second part of a two-course sequence that enables students to develop and refine their formal project proposals following the approved prospectus that They developed during the Organizational Research Project 1 course. The objective of the project proposal is similar to that of a dissertation proposal, where the student demonstrates the requisite level of background and familiarity with the chosen project.

Working with an organizational preceptor, students develop and present a mid-point "implementation defense" by the end of the term. Once approved by the preceptor and a faculty advisor, students are permitted to complete work on their project, which will be formally presented during HSML 6281 Systems Thinking and Learning.